

01MRA0170; 60,130-1034

**REMARKS**

The Examiner objected to claim 14 stating it is unclear. Claim 14 has been rewritten to overcome the objection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-5, 12-17 & 19-20 have been amended to overcome the 112 rejection. The term "bar disc" has been changed to "bar damper," and the term "clutch disc" has been changed to "clutch damper." Both the terms "bar damper" and "clutch damper" are supported by the specification.

Claims 1, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Struss, et al.* (United States Patent No. 6,149,166). *Struss, et al.* does not disclose clutch dampers connectable to a vehicle frame. *Struss, et al.* discloses an apparatus for use in a vehicle suspension. The apparatus includes a viscous coupling 72 including a first disc section 74 having a plurality of disc members 80 and a second disc section 76 having a plurality of disc members 84 enclosed by a housing member 78. The first and second disc sections 74 and 76 both extend from the anti-roll bar 30, as disclosed in column 2, lines 48-51. Fluid surrounds the disc members 80 and 84. The viscosity of the fluid changes to vary the stiffness of the anti-roll bar 30.

Applicant's claims are not anticipated by *Struss, et al.* Applicant's claims require that the clutch dampers are connectable to a vehicle frame. *Struss, et al.* does not disclose clutch dampers connected to a vehicle frame, but rather discloses that the disc members 80 and 84 are connected to the anti-roll bar 30.

In addition, *Struss, et al.* does not disclose clutch dampers and bar dampers, which move relative to each other. *Struss, et al.* discloses a viscous coupling in which there is no movement between the first or second discs 74 and 76. Instead, the fluid changes viscosity to vary the stiffness of the anti-roll bar 30. Applicant's claims require substantial movement between the clutch dampers and the bar dampers, and Applicant's claims are not anticipated by *Struss, et al.*

Claims 2, 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over *Struss, et al.* in view of *Montague* (United States Patent Number 6,305,487). *Montague* discloses a brake clutch including a friction coating on a floating clutch disc. The Examiner states it would be obvious to provide a friction coating on the first and second discs of *Struss, et al.*

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There is no motivation or benefit to employ a friction coating on the discs 80 and 84 of *Struss, et al.* *Struss, et al.* discloses a viscous coupling employing rheological fluid to vary the stiffness of the anti-roll bar 30. As there is no interaction between the discs 80 and 84, there is no benefit to employing a frictional coating on the discs 80 and 84. It would not be obvious to use a frictional coating with the apparatus of *Struss, et al.*, and Applicant's claims are not obvious.

Thus, Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$102.00 are required for one additional claim in excess of twenty and one additional independent claim. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., in the amount of \$102.00. The Commission is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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JUN 30 2003

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Dated: June 30, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2837, Before Final facsimile no. (703) 872-9318 on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2003.



Theresa M. Palmateer

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